

DNREC Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police launch Sea Tow Foundation Life Jacket Loaner Program

Partnership to provide life jackets to boaters

DOVER (May 23, 2019) – DNREC's Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police, through a partnership with the boating safety nonprofit Sea Tow Foundation, announced today the launch of a Life Jacket Loaner Program for boaters operating in Delaware. To avoid ending a boating voyage on Delaware waterways when boaters are found without legally-required life jackets, officers will have loaner life jackets in sizes Infant to Adult XL onboard their patrol vessels for the public to borrow and return.

Delaware law requires all vessel owners/operators to carry a readily-accessible, properly-sized life jacket for each person onboard, and that all children 12 years old and younger aboard a vessel of any type wear a life jacket while the vessel is underway. All personal watercraft (PWC) operators and passengers, irrespective of age, must wear a life jacket while a PWC is underway.

Since 2008, the Sea Tow Foundation has distributed more than 40,000 life jackets to local businesses and organizations across the country. Boaters may borrow the life jackets and are asked to return them when they are finished so that they are available for others to use.

The following local businesses and organizations have also partnered with DNREC Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police to serve as drop off locations to return the life jackets:

New Castle County:

Delaware City Marina
302 Canal Street
Delaware City, DE 19706
302-834-4172

Kent County:

Bayside Marine
6585 Shawnee Road
Milford, DE 19963
302-682-3968

JP's on the Wharf
201 Hubbard Ave.
Frederica, DE 19946
302-335-4035

Smith's Bait Shop
500 Denny Street
Leipsic, DE 19901
302-744-9140

Sussex County:

Pier Point Marina
115 Rodney Ave.
Dewey Beach, DE 19971
302-227-2808

Indian River Marina-
Ship Store
39415 Inlet Road
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971
302-227-2800

Shark's Cove Marina
38931 Madison Ave.
Fenwick Island,
Selbyville, DE 19975
302-436-8500

Short's Marine
32415 Long Neck Road
Millsboro, DE 19966
302-945-1200

Nanticoke River Marina
26 Market Street
Blades, DE 19973
302-628-8600

DNREC Lewes Facility
901 Pilottown Road
Lewes, DE 19958
302-855-7290

For more information on the Life Jacket Loaner Program or boating safety in Delaware, click [Delaware Boating Safety](#) or contact Boating Safety & Education Coordinator Sgt. Brooke Mitchell at 302-739-9913 or email brooke.mitchell@delaware.gov.

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